Missing Radioactive Sources

*8. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Times of India of October, 12, 1993 under the caption 'missing radioactive sources untraced';

(b) whether it is a fact that three radioactive material containers for ONGC were allegedly stolen from M/s. Halliburton Ocshore Service Inc., (Hoshi) and dumped in the Cooum river;

(c) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(d) whether there is any possibility of leakage of the radiocative material, if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) what steps have so far been taken to recover the material; and

(f) whether Government have made any enquiry into the circumstances under which the radiocative material has been stolen; the persons responsible therefor and what are the details of the enquiry made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) M/s. Halliburton Offshore Services Incorporated (HOSI), Madras, has been engaged by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) for oil well logging operations. M/s. HOSI had in their custody radioactive sources for these operations. Agencies throughout the world utilise radiocative sources for this purpose. Three radioactive sources were allegedly stolen from the premises of HOSI around 23rd September, 1993 and thrown into the Cooum river near Napier bridge in Madras.

(d) Since the sources are doubly encapsulated in stainless steel containers, seal-welded and tested individually to withstand high pressure, possibility of leakage of radioactivity is very remote. After the recovery, tests were made and it was found that there was no leakage of radioactivity from these sources. Measurement of radioactivity of the sediment and water in the region also showed that there was no leakage of radioactivity.

(e) The three radioactive sources have already been recovered from the Cooum river.

(f) According to investigations made by the Tamil Nadu Police authorities, 6 employees of HOSI who had industrial relations problems with the management, unauthorisedly took out the sources from the storage area of HOSI and threw into the Cooum river. A case has been registered against the concerned persons by the Tamil Nadu Police and action as per law taken.

Need for extra fuel in planes to meet emergency equirement

*9. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:
SHRI SARDA MOHANTY:

Will the MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether extra fuel is carried in planes to meet exigencies in landing due to fog, heavy rains and other situations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the norms set by the appropriate departments to meet such exigencies;

(c) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines A-300 IC 440 had to force land near Tirupati on the 15th November, 1993; if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether fuel shortage occured in that plane had forced the landing of the plane:

(e) whether there was any other technical snag that compelled forced landing;